

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 AF-06 /088 W

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R 241730Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8020

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2311

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, PDIP, XF, PINR

SUBJ: GOG APPOINTS SPECIAL "AMBASSADOR AT LARGE"

TO ARAB NATIONS

REF: ATHENS 1850

1. AS A FURTHER STEP IN ITS APPARENT PLAN TO CULTIVATE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD (REFTEL), THE GOG HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR JOHN GEORGAKIS TO SERVE IN EFFECT AS AN AMBASSADOR AT LARGE TO THE ARAB COUNTRIES. GEORGAKIS WILL BE BASED IN THE MFA IN ATHENS BUT WILL REPORTEDLY TRAVEL WIDELY TO THE VARIOUS ARAB CAPITALS TO PROMOTE BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. AKROPOLIS REPORTED ON MARCH 23 THAT AMBASSADOR GEORGAKIS HAD MET WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TO BE BRIEFED ON
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HIS DUTIES. IT NOTED THAT GEORGAKIS IN HIS NEW POST WILL

SPEARHEAD GREEK EFFORTS WITH THE ARABS IN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, MERCHANT MARINE TECHNICAL COOPERATION, INVESTMENTS, OIL, ETC. KATHIMERINI (MARCH 22) SUGGESTED THAT THE GREEK DESIRE TO ATTRACT ARAB INVESTMENTS AND LOANS WAS A PRINCIPAL FACTOR BEHIND THE GEORGAKIS APPOINTMENT.

3. AMBASSADOR GEORGAKIS IS AT PRESENT DEAN OF THE PANTEIOS SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE. HE WAS BORN IN 1916. AFTER UNIVERSITY TRAINING IN ATHENS, HE CONTINUED HIS GRADUATE WORK AT MUNICH, HEIDELBERG, LEIPZIG AND FRIBOURG. AFTER A SHORT PERIOD AS LECTURER OF PENAL LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG (1939), HE COMMENCED HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE PANTEIOS SCHOOL IN 1942 AS SPECIAL PROFESSOR OF PENAL LAW RISING EVENTUALLY TO THE POSITION OF DEAN. IN 1945 HE SERVED AS UNDER SECRETARY/GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE IONIAN ISLANDS AND A FEW YEARS LATER (1951-52) HE WAS GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DODECANESE ISLANDS. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LAWYERS AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PENAL LAW. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS AND TREATISES ON PENAL LAW (BOTH IN GERMAN AND GREEK). HIS HOBBY IS BYZANTINE ART AND HE SPEAKS FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN AND ENGLISH. HIS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES INCLUDE SERVING AS PERSONAL ADVISOR TO ONASSIS AND MEMBER OF BOARD OF OLYMPIC AIRWAYS.

4. COMMENT: GEORGAKIS IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY SHREWD AND CULTIVATED MAN WHO SUFFERS FROM A REPUTATION FOR POLITICAL OPPORTUNISM. HE HAS FOR EXAMPLE BEEN SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY LIBERAL GREEKS FOR PLAYING ALONG WITH THE COLONELS AND GENERALS WHO RULED GREECE UNTIL LAST SUMMER. GEORGAKIS ANSWERS THESE CHARGES BY SAYING THAT, AS LEGAL COUNSEL TO ONASSIS AND OLYMPIC AIRWAYS IN GREECE, HE DID NO MORE THAN PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF HIS EMPLOYER. HIS NEW APPOINTMENT SUGGESTS THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THIS RATIONALE AND BELIEVES THAT GEORGAKIS'S SKILL AS A CONTACT MAN CAN BE EFFECTIVELY MOBILIZED TO ENHANCE GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD.

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